

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 2003 AGENDA
Item No. W-9

TITLE: General waiver request of <i>Education Code</i> (EC) Sections 60450 (b) and 60451(b) – Schiff-Bustamante Standards-Based Instructional Materials Program by Palo Alto Unified School District to purchase non-adopted Instructional Resources (<i>FOSS, Grades K-5, California Edition</i>) using Schiff-Bustamante funds. CDSIS: 37-5-2003	<u>X</u> ACTION <u> </u> INFORMATION <u> </u> PUBLIC HEARING <u> </u> CONSENT
--	--

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends:

☒ Provisional Approval: July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2004, with the requirement that the district first demonstrate full coverage of all science standards identified as not met in the reports of Curriculum Commissioners Drs. Mann and Metzenberg. The district must submit for review the additional supplemental materials that they intend to use to meet this requirement. Funds may not be spent on the *FOSS* program until this condition has been met.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action:

General Waiver requests for the purchase of nonadopted instructional materials are reviewed by CDE staff in accordance with the State Board of Education (SBE) Waiver Policy 99-06 (as amended September 2002) for the Schiff-Bustamante Standards-Based Instructional Materials Program with specified exceptions for Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science programs. This is the second waiver submitted under the Science exception that was added in the September 2002 revision of the State Board policy. The first such waiver, also submitted for the *FOSS* program, was withdrawn by the petitioning district.

The exception that applies to this waiver is the second exception. The criteria for the exception in the area of science requires that a) the materials proposed to be purchased, or an earlier edition, were submitted for the 2002 Science Adoption but were not adopted; that b) that the school(s) covered by the waiver were using those materials before that adoption; c) that the materials demonstrate sufficient coverage of the science content standards (verified by submission of a standards map); and d) the school(s) covered by the waiver have demonstrated exemplary achievement as measured by API and STAR data.

Summary of Key Issue(s):

Palo Alto Unified School District requests a waiver to use Schiff-Bustamante Program funds for the purchase of *FOSS (Full Option Science System), Grades K-5, California Edition*. An earlier

edition of this program was submitted under the 2000 Science Adoption but was not adopted. The district is seeking a waiver under the second exception for science instructional materials.

Schiff-Bustamante Instructional Materials Fund – Exception 2 in the Area of Science:

The district has met criteria (A)-(D) specified in the State Board policy as follows:

(A) The *FOSS Grades K-5* program was submitted for consideration for adoption as part of the 2000 Science Primary Adoption, but was not adopted. The district is seeking to use a revised 2003 California Edition that they assert addresses the weaknesses found in the program during the 2000 Adoption and now fully meets the content standards in Science.

(B) Palo Alto Unified adopted *FOSS* during its adoption cycles in 1992 (for the Grades 3-6 modules) and 1995 (for the K-2 modules), and teachers and students have been using the earlier edition since that time. The district's professional development program has incorporated *FOSS* as an integral part of training teachers in its overall science curriculum.

(C) The publisher has provided a completed grade-level-specific standards map for the new edition of *FOSS*. The complete program underwent a thorough and comprehensive content review by Dr. Sandra Mann, a member of the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission, as part of an earlier Schiff-Bustamante waiver request for *FOSS* from a different district. Dr. Mann's report (copy attached) found that numerous standards were either partially met or not met across several grade levels of the program.

The District has submitted a comprehensive list of supplementary materials that they feel meet the deficiencies uncovered in the *FOSS* basic program. These supplemental items (attached list provided by the district) were reviewed by Curriculum Commissioner Dr. Stan Metzenberg. Dr. Metzenberg's report (copy attached) found that of the 75 science standards for grades K-5 not met by the *FOSS* program, 33 were not met by the district's list of supplemental materials. The district will have to demonstrate that all standards, including those listed as deficient by Drs. Mann and Metzenberg, have been met as a condition for approval of this petition.

(D) It is difficult to track student achievement in science, as the API does not reflect science and the first statewide assessment in Science (for 5th grade) is not slated to occur until 2004. However, Palo Alto Unified SD's twelve elementary schools all received a 9 or 10 API ranking in 2002. Since assessment data in science is unavailable, the general procedure is to use Mathematics test data for waiver requests for science materials as a proxy. The district's test scores in Mathematics (SAT-9 and CST) for the twelve elementary schools covered by this waiver request have been significantly higher than the state average. On the Spring 2002 Mathematics Content Standards Test, for example, PAUSD students scored an average 74% at or above Proficient for 2nd-5th grade, compared to 37% statewide. More specific test results are provided in the Mathematics Assessment Information provided by the district as part of its waiver request (attached).

Department Recommendation

The Department recommendation is for provisional approval of the petition request from 7/1/02 through 6/30/04, for **Palo Alto Unified School District** with the requirement that the district first demonstrate full coverage of all science standards identified as not met in the reports of Curriculum Commissioners Drs. Mann and Metzenberg. The district must submit for review the additional supplemental materials that they intend to use to meet this requirement. Funds may not be spent on the *FOSS* program until this condition has been met.

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on: 1/14/03

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

☐

Neutral

☒

Support

☐

Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Ro Davis, President

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

☐

posting in a newspaper

☒

posting at each school

☐

other (specify)_____

Public hearing held on: April 22, 2003

Local board approval date: May 13, 2003

Advisory committee(s) consulted: Science Committee

Objections raised (choose one):

☒

None

☐

Objections are attached on

separate sheet

Date consulted: 2/10/03

Effective dates of request: July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2004

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate): N/A

Background Information: Waiver request and background information are attached to this summary.